

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 /083 W

-----117079 061055Z /14

P R 061000Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8502

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE 5345

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7622

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, PK, IZ, PLO

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON PLO ISLAMABAD OFFICE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. PAK PRESS AUGUST 5 CARRIES ACCOUNT OF TERRORIST ATTACK
ON ISLAMABAD PLO OFFICE

2. THE PRESS SAYS THAT AT 11:30 A.M. AUGUST 4 TWO "UNIDENT-
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IFIED PERSONS" GOT OUT OF A GREEN TOYOTA NEAR THE PLO OFFICE
(COMMENT: A HOUSE IN A PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD),
WALKED A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE FRONT GATE, AND OPENED FIRE
WITH A SUBMACHINE GUN WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEALED IN A BRIEF-
CASE, KILLING A PAKISTANI POLICEMAN ON DUTY AT THE HOUSE.

3. THE ATTACKERS THEN MOVED TOWARD THE BUILDING,

KILLING (AS HE EXITED THE PREMISES) SAAD ABU NASEER, A PALESTINIAN IDENTIFIED AS A "WIRELESS OPERATOR." THE GUNMEN THEN WENT INSIDE THE OFFICES AND KILLED UMAR KHANFAR, A PALESTINIAN STUDENT AT RAWALPINDI MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND MOHAMMAD AL-HASAN, IDENTIFIED AS A PALESTINIAN "OFFICER UNDER TRAINING IN PAKISTAN."

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE TWO ATTACKERS THEN BEGAN A SEARCH OF THE BUILDING FOR PLO REPRESENTATIVE YUSUF ABU HANTASH. HANTASH, ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ACCOUNT, STAYED IN HIS ROOM, AND THE ATTACKERS LEFT WITHOUT FINDING HIM. AS THE TWO FLED, THEY THREW ONE OR TWO HAND GRENADES TO COVER THEIR ESCAPE.

5. THE POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE ABOUT 20 MINUTES AFTER THE ATTACK AND BEGAN A HUNT FOR THE ASSAILANTS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS, AND THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

6. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, THE PLO REP ACCUSED AN "ARAB COUNTRY" OF THE KILLINGS, AND SAID THAT THE ATTACKERS' ACCENTS "GAVE AWAY THEIR ORIGIN" (BBC REPORTED IRAQI ACCENTS). THE PRESS HAS IDENTIFIED THE ATTACKERS SIMPLY AS "UNKNOWN YOUTHS." STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT 80 TO 100 EMPTY CARTRIDGES WERE FOUND ON THE PREMISES AND "ARE SAID TO BE SOVIET-MADE". END UNCLASSIFIED

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: IN A CONVERSATION WITH A
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WESTERN REPORTER AUGUST 4, PLO REP HANTASH, COMMENTING ON THE AUGUST 2 ATTACK ON THE IRAQI CONGEN IN KARACHI, SAID THAT "WHILE THE PLO'S GUNS REMAIN POINTED AT THE PRIMARY ENEMY, SOME OF OUR WEAPONS CAN BE TEMPORARILY TRAINED ON OTHER OPPONENTS."

8. WHEN ASKED AUGUST 3 FOR COMMENT ON THE KARACHI ATTACK, AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD A REPORTER THAT THE MFA HAD NONE, AS THEY "WERE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS (SIC)." THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOP COMMENT ON EITHER INCIDENT. END CONFIDENTIAL. HUMMEL

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